

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2392

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 2893

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, US, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS ASSERTS ANOTHER SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY

1. AUGUST 1 JOHANNESBURG STAR CARRIES FRONTPAGE STORY BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT KEN OWEN STATING THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS CONFIDENTIALLY TOLD CONGRESSIONAL AUDIENCES THAT HE EXPECTS SOUTH AFRICA TO BE INVADED FROM NORTH WITHIN FEW YEARS AND THAT U.S. SHOULD THEREFORE KEEP CLEAR OF AREA. ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES THAT U.S. HAS ADOPTED SIGNIFICANTLY COOLER STANCE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA SINCE PORTUGUESE COUP. TEXT FOLLOWS:

-A. "THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, HAS BEEN TELLING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HE EXPECTS SOUTH AFRICA TO BE INVADED FROM THE NORTH WITHIN A FEW YEARS AND THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD THEREFORE KEEP WELL CLEAR OF THE AREA.

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B." THE COMMENT WAS MADE CONFIDENTIALLY AT A BREAKFAST MEETING BETWEEN THEM. ONE OF THE CONGRESSMENT PRESENT BECAME EXTREMELY AGITATED WHEN ASKED TO CONFIRM THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD MADE THE REMARK, BUT HE DID CONFIRM THE SUBSTANCE OF DR. KISSINGER'S VIEW.

C." UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD HE BE QUOTED,' THE CONGRESSMAN SAID. 'HE DOES HAVE SOME FEARS ABOUT INVA-SION FROM THE NORTH BUT HE MUST NOT BE QUOTED. HE WOULD NEVER SAY SUCH A THING IN PUBLIC.'

SHARP COOLING

D." THE COMMENT MAY EXPLAIN DR. KISSINGER'S ACTION IN FIRIMB HIS FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AFRICA, MR. DONAQDEASUMUN WHEN MR. EASUM BEGAN TO INVOLVE THE UNITED STATES IN THE CURRENT SOUTHERN AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE.

E." IT COULD ALSO EXPLAIN THE SHARP COOLING IN THE OFFICIAL US STANCE TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE COLLAPSE OF THE PORTUGUESE EMPIRE. UNTIL THEN DR. KISSINGER EXPECTED THE WHITES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO SURVIVE PERMANENTLY. NOW HE APPEARS TO HAVE GONE TO THE OPPOSITE EXTREME.

F." IN ANY EVENT, IT IS AN INDISPUTABLE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ABANDONED ALL RESTRAINT ON ARMS SALES TO AFRICAN STATES WHILE CONTINUING TO MAINTAIN AN ARMS EMBARGO TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.

G." ONLY A MONTH AGO PRESENTENT GERALD FORD SIGNED A DETERMINATION THAT SALES OF SOPHISTICATED FALETHA FIGHTERS TO ETHIOPIA AR\$-ETERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

H." THIS HAS CLEARED THE WAY FOR SALES OF THESE FIGHTERS, WHICH CAN FLY WELL OVER THE SPEEN OF SOUND, TO AFRICAM COUNTRIES.
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I." HOW MANY F-5 AIRCRAFT ARE TO BE SOLD COULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY DETERMINED HERE LAST NIGHT,HBUT PRESIDENT FORD HAS ALSO CERTIFIED IN THE LAST MONTH THAT THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES "REQUIRED" GRANTING TO ETHIOPIA CREDIT OF 25-MILLION DOLLARS (ABOUT RAND 17-MILLION), AT A REDUCED INTEREST RATE OF FIVE PERCENT, TO ALLOW THE BLACK MILITARY DICTATOR-

SHIP TO BUY AMERICAN WEAPONS.

J." NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT COULD BE OBTAINED FROM THE
STATE DEPARTMENT. DR. KISSINGER IS IN HELSINKI."

2. PRETORIA NEWS CARRIED SLIGHTLY ABBREVIATED NI
VERSION OF SAME STORY BUT ADDED FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS:

A." NO COMMENT ON DR. KISSINGER'S REPORTED ATTITUDE
COULD BE OBTAINED TODAY FROM EITHER THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY IN PRETORIA OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DR. HILGARD MULLER.

B." HOWEVER, THERE WAS GENERAL SCEPTICISM IN DIPLOMATIC
CIRCLES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR SWITCH IN
AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.
THIS ATTITUDE APPEARS TO BE BASED ON THE FACT THAT
THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT HAVE ANY DIRECT ROLE TO
PLAY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AT THE MOMENT."

3. IN RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT KEN OWEN
ARTICLE WE PLAN TO DECLINE COMMENT AND
CALL ATTENTION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS
JULY 24 STATEMENT BEFORE THE SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON
AFRICA.
BOWDLER

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